

L1630200005 - St. Clair
Sauget Site - Saugest
SF - Tech. FOS 2/5/87

M E M O R A N D U M

153752

DATE: February 5, 1987

TO: Monte Nienkerk

FROM: R. L. Johnson - HES Oversight - Southern Region

SUBJECT: • 1630200005 - St. Clair Co. - Dead Creek/Sauget Sites
• 1631210014 - St. Clair Co. - Sauget/Moss American
1630450030 - St. Clair Co. - East St. Louis/United Steel Drum
1630050009 - St. Clair Co. - Alorton/Owens-Rhodes
Superfund - Technical

- On February 3, 1987 a site tour coordinated by Keri Luly was taken by David Webb and Helen Gruber of the Illinois Department of Public Health, Craig Colten of the Illinois State Museum and this writer. The primary purpose of the tour was to view the Dead Creek/Sauget Sites, but other nearby Superfund sites were also inspected via a windshield tour. The group met at the Regional Office at about 1000 hours.

The Central States Battery facility was very quickly viewed by the group, as was the United Steel Drum facility. Smoke arising from burning on or near the property adjacent east to USD property was noted but is not unusual for the Stevenson site located there. The process tanks at Wastex were then viewed, as tanker trucks were being filled for transport of product.

- As the Moss American site was driven by, two men in white protective overalls were observed apparently picking up debris near the old boiler room area. As many as a dozen large plastic bags had already been filled and were staged just to the north of the old building site. The Superior System trailer at the entrance had been replaced by a Kerr-McGee trailer. Not knowing whether any activity was planned and not having any protective gear, no further investigation was done at this time and the tour continued to the Sauget sites.
- Dan Sewell of E&E was met at his project office on New Queeny Road. E&E is supervising the drilling of the Dead Creek/Sauget sites in the effort to have the sites placed on the NPL. Dr. Colten is performing a study to reconstruct historical industry activity in the Sauget area. Mr. Webb and Ms. Gruber together are acquainting themselves with the hazardous clean-up sites in their region. They were especially interested in the degree of contamination within the Dead Creek stream bed bounded by residential areas. This writer is interested in the progress of the Dead Creek study and guided the group to other clean-up sites.
- Mr. Sewell briefly described each of the sites identified on a plan map of the project area, as the group drove by. The course of Dead Creek was followed from Cerro Copper to the archaeological dig site at the intersection of Routes 3 and 157. The former landfills along the Mississippi River were of particular interest. After lunch, Mr. Sewell was returned to his office and the tour group to the Collinsville office.

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The group was given a short presentation of the active Superfund sites in the area, and then quickly viewed the Glidden and Collinswood sites before returning to their respective offices.

- This writer, after conferring with Mr. O'Hara, Project Manager of the Moss American site, returned to that site to find no activity and the site secure. All the previously described plastic bags were no longer on site.

While returning to the office, a crew was observed moving and sorting drums on property east of the USD facility and north of Missouri Avenue. The crew wore no discernable protective gear as apparently empty drums were loaded onto a small flatbed truck which belonged to Great Lakes Container. The smoke reported previously in the USD vicinity was now quite obvious as it wafted low over Missouri Avenue. Upon further investigation, the unpermitted open dump discovered during inspection of the bauxite tailings area on December 10, 1986 was found to be on fire. The USD activity and the open dump fire were reported to appropriate personnel at the Regional Office.

- On the following day, February 4, 1987, this writer returned to the Moss American site to collect samples of possible asbestos material. The anticipated site activity did not occur and no open gate was available for access. Prior to acquiring a key from the adjacent Kerr-McGee Forest Products Division facility, the observed tanker truck operation at USD (Photo 651-1) and the pronounced increase of smoke from the open dump fire were reported to Regional personnel.
- Personnel at the K-M facility said that some of their people used the key for the Moss American site the previous day and the key was not returned to its proper place. The keys finally supplied by K-M personnel did not fit the Moss American gate lock. Access to the Moss American site was finally achieved by crawling under the security fence. Sample X201 (Photo 651-2) is fibrous wallboard. The area of the former boiler room has been picked up of a reinforced plaster-like insulation. (Photo 651-3&4 compared to Photo 639-6, December 29, 1986). Sample X203 (Photo 651-5) was about the last piece of this type of insulation of what was a fairly widely spread material. A thin fibrous panelling, Sample X202, can still be easily found on the site. (Photo 651-6). Upon leaving the site at about 1440 hours, the keys were returned to the K-M facility office.

While driving past USD, the IEPA Region van was noticed parked east of the Bliss property. After parking on the East St. Louis right-of-way, the USD access road to the drum storage behind the Bliss property was taken enroute to the burning open dump reported the previous day. It was noted at that time that plastic drums in the area had recently been stacked, with the drums lying on their sides. Approaching the dump, the smoke was much more dense than the day before. There was much more refuse both at the open dump and on the adjacent Stevenson site when last viewed by this writer about two months ago. After photographing the fire (Photos 651-7 through 13), the film was delivered to the processor.

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On the morning of February 5, 1987, the fire at the designated Owens-Rhodes open dump site was observed to be burning hotter than the day before, judging by the smoke plume. Also a two man crew on the property east of the USD facility was observed picking up metal drums and lids off the ground and loading them onto a blue pickup truck. These conditions were conveyed to the appropriate Regional personnel.

RLJ:cas/0049L
Attachments

cc: Jim Janssen
cc: Ken Mensing
cc: Jeff Larson
cc: Bob O'Hara
cc: Mary Dinkel

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